

What is claimed is:

1. A planer comprising:

a base;

a top frame connected to the base;

a cutterhead movably supported on the top frame relative to the base; and

a retractable measuring device attached to the top frame.

2. The planer of claim 1, wherein the retractable measuring device has a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

3. The planer of claim 2, further comprising a scale indicator attached to the top frame adjacent the retractable measuring device.

4. The planer of claim 3, wherein the scale indicator is located on a transparent member attached to the top frame and covering a portion of the retractable measuring device.

5. The planer of claim 4 wherein the retractable measuring device has a scale thereon and wherein the scale cooperates with the scale indicator to display a height at which the cutterhead is positioned from the base.

6. The planer of claim 2 wherein the first end of the retractable measuring device is attached to a roll coupled to the top frame.

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7. The planer of claim 6 wherein the roll is housed within a housing affixed to the top frame.

8. A depth measuring apparatus for a planer having a base, a top frame connected to the base and a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base, the depth measuring apparatus comprising:

a retractable measuring tape attachable to the top frame.

9. The planer of claim 8 wherein the retractable measuring device has a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

10. The planer of claim 9 further comprising a scale indicator attached to the top frame adjacent the retractable measuring device.

11. The planer of claim 10 wherein the scale indicator is located on a transparent member attached to the top frame and covering a portion of the retractable measuring device.

12. The planer of claim 11 wherein the retractable measuring device has a scale thereon and wherein the scale cooperates with the scale indicator to display a height at which the cutterhead is positioned from the base.

13. The planer of claim 12 wherein the first end of the retractable measuring device is attached to a roll coupled to the top frame.

14. The planer of claim 13 wherein the roll is housed within a housing affixed to the top frame.
15. A planer comprising:
- a frame;
 - an electrically powered cutterhead having an on/off switch supported on the frame, the on/off switch movable between an on position wherein the cutterhead is activated and an off position wherein the cutterhead is deactivated;
 - an infeed table pivotable between an extended operating position and a storage position, the infeed table biasing the on/off switch to the off position when in the storage position.
16. The planer of claim 15, further comprising:
- a first aperture in the frame;
 - a second aperture through the infeed table wherein the first and second apertures are aligned when the infeed table is in the storage position; and
 - a locking device insertable through the aligned first and second apertures.
17. The planer of claim 16 wherein the locking device comprises a padlock.
18. A planer for removing material from a workpiece, the planer comprising:
- a base;

a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base;

a workpiece level indicator movably affixed to the cutterhead such that the workpiece level indicator is movable between an engaged position and a disengaged position;

a biaser attached to the cutterhead to bias the workpiece level indicator into the engaged position.

19. The planer of claim 18, further comprising a cover plate covering an inscription on the workpiece level indicator plate when the workpiece level indicator plate is in the disengaged position and exposing the inscription when the workpiece level indicator plate is in the engaged position.

20. A planer, comprising:

a base;

a top frame connected to the base;

a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base to define an adjustable opening therebetween for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction; and

a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame and not extending into the adjustable opening, the depth stop mechanism selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base.

21. A planer, comprising:

a base;

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first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;

a top frame attached to at least the first support member; and

a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base.

22. The planer of claim 21 wherein the depth stop mechanism comprises:

an abutment surface on the first support member;

a depth stop member rotatably supported on a portion of the first support member adjacent to the abutment surface thereof, the depth stop member slidably supported in the top frame; and

an adjustment assembly in the top frame, the adjustment assembly selectively adjusting a position of the depth stop member on the first support member relative to the abutment surface.

23. The planer of claim 22 wherein the depth stop member comprises a depth stop nut threadedly received on a threaded portion of the first support member and wherein the first support member is rotatable.

24. The planer of claim 23 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a sleeve rotatably supported within the top frame and slidably and non-rotatably supporting the depth stop

nut therein such that rotation of the sleeve rotates the depth stop nut on the threaded portion of the first support member.

25. The planer of claim 24 further comprising a sleeve locking mechanism for selectively preventing rotation of the sleeve relative to the top frame.

26. The planer of claim 25 wherein the first support member defines an axis of rotation about which the sleeve may rotate and wherein the sleeve locking mechanism comprises:

a bushing attached to the sleeve such that rotation of the bushing rotates the sleeve about the axis of rotation, the bushing having at least a portion with a non-circular exterior, the non-circular exterior of the bushing selectively receivable in a bore within the top frame that is shaped to define a plurality of positions about the axis of rotation in which the bushing may be retained when the non-circular exterior of the bushing is received therein; and

a knob attached to the first support member for selective rotation of the first support member relative to the bushing, the knob being selectively engageable with the bushing for rotating the sleeve about the axis of rotation.

27. The planer of claim 26 wherein the bushing is integral with the sleeve.

28. The planer of claim 26 wherein the knob includes a plurality of posts corresponding to a plurality of ramps on the bushing for selectively locking the sleeve in a non-rotatable position.

29. The planer of claim 28 further comprising a biaser for biasing the knob to a disengaged position.
30. The planer of claim 21 further comprising a retractable measuring device having a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.
31. The planer of claim 23, wherein the depth stop nut is at a bottom end of the sleeve and abuts the abutment surface on the first support member when the cutterhead reaches a predetermined distance away from the base when the sleeve is in the engaged position.
32. The planer of claim 26, wherein the sleeve is locked in the engaged position when the knob is biased toward the top frame and rotated such that the posts travel up the ramps and are received in corresponding slots in the ramps.
33. The planer of claim 21, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member such that rotation of the first support member causes identical rotation of the second support member such that the cutterhead remains parallel to the base during height adjustment.
34. The planer of claim 33, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member by an endless chain received on sprockets on the first support member and the second support member.

35. The planer of claim 23, wherein the depth stop nut travels on a first threaded portion of a first support member having a first pitch and the cutterhead travels on a second threaded portion of the first support member having a second pitch.

36. The planer of claim 35, wherein the ratio of the first pitch to the second pitch is about 2.5.

37. A material removal device, comprising:
a base;
frame means attached to the base and having a top portion;
means for removing material from a workpiece on the base;
means for adjusting a location of the means for removing relative to the base,
such that upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a first direction, the means for removing moves towards the base and upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a second direction, the means for removing moves away from the base; and
means attached to the top portion of the frame means for selectively stopping the means for removing at a predetermined distance from the base.

38. The material removal device of claim 37 wherein the means for adjusting comprises a first rotatable spindle and a second rotatable spindle supported on the base and coupled to the means for removing.

39. The material removal device of claim 38 further comprising:

depth stop means on a portion of the first rotatable spindles, the depth stop means being selectively rotatable thereon for selective abutment with a shoulder on the first rotatable spindle such that when the depth stop means is in abutting relationship to the shoulder, the removing means cannot move toward the base; and

depth stop adjustment means supported in the top portion of the frame means for adjusting the position of the depth stop means on the first rotatable spindle.

40. The material removal device of claim 39, further comprising means for indicating when the means for removing material contacts a workpiece on the base.

41. The material removal device of claim 42 further comprising means for indicating a distance at which the means for removing material is located from the base.

42. A dust removal assembly for a machine that includes a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a rotary cutting member, the dust removal assembly comprising:

a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly;

a dust deflector directing airflow to the manifold; and

a dust chute communicating with the manifold, the dust chute having a channel releasably connected to the carriage assembly and a side opening for connection to a vacuum hose.

43. The dust removal assembly of claim 42, wherein the channel includes two end posts which are slideably received in corresponding slots of the carriage assembly.

44. A planer comprising:
a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a pair of guiding slots;
a rotary cutting member within the carriage assembly; and
dust removal assembly comprising:
a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly;
a dust deflector directing airflow to the manifold; and
a dust chute communicating with the manifold, the dust chute having a side opening for connection to a vacuum hose and a channel releasably connected to the carriage assembly with a pair of posts correspondingly slidable in the pair of guiding slots.